Serial No. 10/663,237
Page 3 of 8

IN THE CLAIMS

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of accessing data stored in a disk array as a plurality of extents striped across the disks forming the disk array, the method comprising:

receiving a new user access request;

assigning the new user access request to a disk d of said disk array;

determining when the new user access request will be processed by examining extent size for requested data stored on disk d, wherein if the new user access request will be processed within a predefined period of time, placing the new user access request into a new user queue for disk d; otherwise, assigning the new user access request to another disk of said disk array.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein said another disk is up to three disks distant from disk d.

3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein, if said new user access request cannot be assigned to another disk, waiting a predefined period of time; and

assigning the new user access request to disk d.

4. (original) In a video on demand system comprising a plurality of disks, where video information is striped across the plurality of disks, a method of accessing the video information comprising:

receiving a user access request for a next portion of video information required to present a streaming video sequence to the user;

assigning the user access request to a disk d of the plurality of disks that contains the next portion of video information;

determining when the user access request will be processed by examining extent size for said video information stored on disk d, wherein if the user access request will be processed within a predefined period of time, placing the user

380927-1

Serial No. 10/663,237
Page 4 of 8

access request into a new user queue for disk d; otherwise, assigning the user access request to another disk of said plurality of disks.

5.   (original) The method of claim 4 wherein said another disk is up to three disks distant from disk d.

6.   (original) The method of claim 4 wherein, if said user access request cannot be assigned to another disk, waiting a predefined period of time; and assigning the user access request to disk d.

380927-1